

**COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE (CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST)
AND
ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY**

THIS COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT is made and entered into by and between the USDA Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the FOREST SERVICE, and the Orange County Fire Authority, hereinafter referred to as the AUTHORITY and jointly referred to as PARTIES under the authority and provisions of the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955 (42 USC 1856), the Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288 as amended (42 USC 5121 et. seq.), the Granger-Thye Act of April 24, 1950 (16 USC 572), and the Cooperative Funds and Deposits Act of Dec 12, 1975 (16 USC 565a1-3).

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for cooperation in the prevention, detection and suppression of wildland fires within the protection areas of PARTIES signatory to this Agreement. This Agreement describes the conditions under which "MUTUAL AID" periods are established to provide resources to each other on a non-reimbursable basis. This Agreement also describes the conditions of "ASSISTANCE BY HIRE" on a reimbursable basis.

It is also meant to provide overhead personnel for Federal Incident Management Teams and miscellaneous overhead resources.

The Agreement also provides for cooperation in fuels treatments and prescribed burning within the protection areas of the PARTIES to this Agreement.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS

The FOREST SERVICE and AUTHORITY have responsibilities for prevention and suppression on lands administered by each agency, on private lands, and on other lands for which both parties have assumed fire management responsibilities through authorized agreements.

Although both PARTIES maintain prevention, detection and suppression forces to protect areas each is responsible for, it is mutually advantageous and in the public interest for the parties to this Agreement to coordinate and assist in each other's efforts in prevention, detection, and suppression of wildland fires in and adjacent to their areas of responsibility. It is also mutually advantageous for both PARTIES to provide support and participate in non-fire emergencies of national scope.

III. DEFINITIONS

A Certain capitalized terms used in this agreement are defined.

IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. **ANNUAL OPERATING PLANS** The PARTIES will meet annually, prior to the initiation of fire season, to prepare an Annual Operating Plan (AOP). This AOP will include protection area maps for all parties, current rates for use of AUTHORITY equipment and personnel, lists of principal personnel, dispatching procedures, and any other items identified in this Agreement as necessary for efficient implementation. This AOP shall become attached to and made a part of this Agreement.
2. **RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION (MUTUAL AID)** As deemed appropriate, the PARTIES will establish reciprocal initial attack areas for lands of-adjoining protection responsibilities. Within such areas a SUPPORTING PARTY will, upon request or voluntarily, take initial attack action in support of the PROTECTING PARTY. The PROTECTING PARTY will not be required to reimburse the SUPPORTING PARTY for initial attack actions taking place in these areas within the first 12 hours following initial dispatch of suppression resources. All assistance beyond this mutual aid period will be Assistance by Hire and will be billed retroactively for the full period from the time of initial dispatch. Reciprocal initial attack will follow the guidelines specified in the attached AOP.
3. **ASSISTANCE BY HIRE** Assistance by Hire is the provision of fire suppression resources, by one PARTY to another, on a reimbursement basis. All requests to hire fire protection assistance must be clear and precise and shall be processed and recorded through the dispatching systems of the PARTIES. Requests not processed in this manner will not be reimbursable. Personnel, equipment, supplies or services provided by the Supporting PARTY and essential to filling the resource order, which are necessary and reasonable, shall be considered as reimbursable as Assistance by Hire. The AUTHORITY may provide out-of-state assistance to the FOREST SERVICE when requested. Such assistance will be Assistance-by-Hire unless otherwise specified as mutual aid in the AOP.

Except for initial response resources all requests for fire suppression assistance in either PARTY'S DPA shall be Assistance by Hire. Any other resources provided by a supporting PARTY, and not specifically requested by the protecting PARTY, shall be considered a voluntary contribution.

4. **INDEPENDENT ACTION** Except as otherwise described in the AOP, any party on its own initiative and without reimbursement may go upon lands protected by the other PARTY to suppress wildfires, if the fire is a threat to property within that responding PARTY'S DPA. In such instances, the PARTY taking independent action will promptly notify the PROTECTING PARTY.

If either PARTY takes independent action on a fire it will furnish the PROTECTING PARTY a preliminary report (oral) within 24 hours of the action taken and a written incident report with 10 days.

5. **CLOSEST FORCES** The PARTIES agree to aggressively pursue initial attack plans that utilize the "Closest Forces" concept wherever appropriate, and to identify preplanned initial attack areas within their respective jurisdictions. This philosophy dictates that the closest available resources, regardless of ownership, shall be utilized initially. The emphasis is to get the closest resources to respond to initial attack fires is in the best interest of all PARTIES.
6. **NOTIFICATIONS** Each PARTY will promptly notify the PROTECTING PARTY of fires burning on that PARTY's DPA. When taking action, the SUPPORTING PARTY will, as soon as possible, notify the PROTECTING PARTY; detailing what equipment and personnel have been dispatched to the incident location.
7. **BOUNDARY FIRES** Boundary fires will be the initial attack responsibility of the Protecting PARTIES on either side of the boundary. Neither PARTY will assume the other is aware of the fire, or is taking action. The officer-in-charge who arrives first at the fire will act as Incident Commander. When both PARTIES have arrived it will be mutually agreed to the designation of the Incident Commander or the initiation of a Unified Command Structure.
8. **COST SHARING** On multi-jurisdictional incidents and incidents which threaten or burn across direct protection boundaries, the PARTIES will jointly develop and execute a written cost share agreement which describes a fair distribution of financial responsibilities. Billing timeframes will be set forth in the cost share agreement. These timeframes supercede the billing timelines identified in Clause 16.
9. **COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS** The PARTIES agree to share the use of communication systems, radios and radio frequencies for the duration of this Agreement. Sharing of frequencies must be approved only by authorized personnel for each PARTY and documented in the AOP.
10. **FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPORT** The PARTIES may procure, loan, lease, share or exchange facilities, equipment and support services. This may include, but is not limited to, such things as dispatch centers, training facilities, administrative offices, fire stations, air attack bases, lookouts, warehouses, vehicles, fire equipment, remote automated weather stations, lightning "detection" equipment and communications equipment. AOPs may outline conditions for specific situations. Whenever it has been mutually agreed, fees for such use, as might be found in special use permits or other similar documents, may be waived. Any operational costs required for such proposed use may be shared and reimbursed by the using PARTY. Any shared cost or reimbursements will be governed in accordance with the existing policy of each PARTY.
11. **JOINT PROJECTS** The PARTIES may jointly conduct mutual interest projects to maintain or improve the fire protection capability of the PARTIES. Such projects will be properly documented, with the objectives of each undertaking and the role each PARTY will play in accomplishing that objective fully explained. Anticipated cost and the amount of each PARTY'S share of the cost will be shown and itemized.

12. **REPLACEMENT OF FIRE SUPPLIES** Replacement of PARTY-owned supplies that are lost, damaged, or expended may be re-supplied at the incident prior to demobilization and according to established procedures.
13. **DETERMINATION OF CAUSE AND PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE** The PARTIES will attempt to protect the point of origin of the fire and evidence pertaining to-fire causation. On initial attack actions, the PARTY taking the action is responsible for gathering and preserving evidence and information pertaining to the origin and cause of the fire. To the extent permitted by applicable County, State and Federal laws, the PARTIES will cooperate to jointly investigate wildland fires of mutual interest and provide the appropriate jurisdictional PARTY with investigation files relative to specific fires.
14. **TRAINING** The PARTIES will cooperate to insure that jointly provided training will produce safe and effective fire and aviation programs. The intent is to provide high quality training that will minimize training costs by sharing of resources, standardization of courses, improve firefighting efficiency and safety. Training also includes participation of fire team members at annual Incident Management Team meetings so members can maintain competency for their specific positions. Each PARTY will bear the cost of training for their respective employees unless otherwise provided in the AOP.
15. **FIRE TRAINING CENTERS** The PARTIES to this Agreement agree to reimburse (or bill) the other PARTY for fire training rendered at PARTY'S training center(s). Billing and reimbursement procedures for this training will use the process identified at the respective fire training facility. Reimbursement and billing arrangements for the rent of either PARTY'S training facilities is also considered part of this Agreement and billings will also be processed as identified by each training facility.
16. **BILLING PROCEDURES** The SUPPORTING PARTY will bill the PROTECTING PARTY for costs incurred for assistance provided and identified as reimbursable. Reimbursable costs may also include transportation, salary, benefits, overtime, and per diem of AUTHORITY personnel assigned to FOREST SERVICE Incident Management Teams and miscellaneous overhead assignments. Rates and conditions of use for the equipment and personnel will be mutually agreed to and documented in the AOP. The costs of "backfilling" employees of either PARTY into local home unit positions for personnel that have been mobilized to incidents are not reimbursable.

PARTIES shall submit a bill within 90 days of the incident.

PARTIES must use their own invoice for billing under this Agreement to avoid any confusion with other services that may have been ordered under other agreements(s). **For the purpose of this Agreement, OES F-42 is not an acceptable support document.** Invoices must identify SUPPORTING PARTY name, address, and Taxpayer Identification Number (AUTHORITY only), fire name, order and request number, and bill number and amount. Invoice supporting documentation must include description of services performed, period of services performed, and any applicable cost share agreements. Supporting documentation will itemize details of billing,

listing personnel, equipment, travel and per diem, aircraft, supplies and purchases as approved in the AOP. It will also include itemized deductions for fuel, oil, maintenance and repair of equipment. AUTHORITY invoices will include "Record of Activities" (FSLA-5) and FOREST SERVICE invoices will include transaction register.

The applicable administrative rate may be applied to reimbursement billing utilizing Office of Management and Budget's, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments" OMB Circular A-87 (60 FR 26484, dated May 17th, 1995). Applicable administrative rates must be approved and identified in the attached AOP.

Invoices for services under this agreement must be sent to:

Address of Forest Service:

Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Rd. Ste. 200
San Diego, CA 92127
Attn: Fire Management Officer

Address of Fire Authority:

Orange County Fire Authority
Financial Services-Accounts Receivable
P. O. Box 51985
Irvine, California 92619-1985

All bills will have a payment due date 30 days after receipt. Contested Billings: Written notice that a bill is contested will be mailed to the other PARTY within 60 days of receipt of the invoice and will fully explain the contested items. Contested items will be resolved no later than 60 days following receipt of the written notice. PARTIES are responsible for facilitating resolution of contested billings.

17. **FIRE PREVENTION** PARTIES agree to share responsibilities and materials for fire prevention activities. Materials may include posters for display in public buildings, businesses and the like. PARTIES will share responsibility for fire prevention and rural fire safety presentations and demonstrations.
18. **FIRE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES** PARTIES will coordinate declarations, such as fire season, fire restrictions and closures, in accordance with each PARTY'S policy and procedures.
19. **PRESCRIBED FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT** This AGREEMENT is meant to cover the cooperation and use of resources for the purposes of Prescribed Fire and Fuels Treatments. The PARTIES may cooperate in the development and implementation of Prescribed Fire plans. Mutually beneficial projects may be at no cost or Assistance by Hire as mutually agreed. In the

event a wildfire results from Prescribed Fire operations, responsibility and accountability for the cost of suppression rest with the PARTY that has authority for igniting the burn as identified in the Rx Burn Plan. Each PARTY will keep the other PARTY informed of all Prescribed Fire operations.

20. **NATIONAL EMERGENCIES** The PARTIES to this Agreement may respond upon request to Nationally declared emergencies providing there are no statutory prohibitions against such use. Legal citations for this use are not outlined in this Agreement and therefore reimbursement provisions may be different than what is described herein.
21. **EMPLOYMENT POLICY** Employees of the PARTIES to this Agreement shall at all times be subject only to the laws, regulations, agreements and rules governing their employment, regardless of incident location, and shall not be entitled to compensation or other benefits of any kind other than specifically provided by the terms of their employment. In other words, neither party shall be responsible for the direct payment of salaries or benefits of employees of the other party.
22. **EXAMINATION OF RECORDS** Each PARTY shall give the other, or their authorized representative, access to, and the right to examine all records, books, papers and documents related to this Agreement. PARTIES shall make supporting documents available for a period of 3 years after final payment.
23. **PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS CANCELED** This Agreement supersedes and replaces any prior Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the PARTIES.
24. **FUNDING LIMITATION** Nothing herein shall be considered as obligating either PARTY to expend, or as involving either PARTY in any contract or other obligation for the future payment of, money in excess of funding approved by Congress, or the Authorities Board of Directors, as the case may be and made available for payment under this Agreement and any modification thereto.
25. **AMENDMENTS** to this Agreement shall not be revised, modified or amended except by mutual written agreement signed and dated by both parties.
26. **NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM** The PARTIES will operate under the concepts defined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) including: Incident Command System (ICS), qualifications system, certification system, training system, the management of publications, and participate in the review, exchange, and transfer of technology as appropriate for providing qualified resources, and for the management of incidents covered by this Agreement.
27. **FIREFIGHTER & OVERHEAD QUALIFICATIONS** FOREST SERVICE agrees to send qualified personnel who meet all the position requirements specified in FSH 5109.17 (meets or exceeds PMS 310-1) to any AUTHORITY incident. The AUTHORITY agrees to send qualified personnel who meet the training and qualification standards specified in National Wildfire

Coordinating Group's (NWCG) PMS 310-1 to any FOREST SERVICE incident, IMT (Incident Management Team) assignment or overhead request.

28. **PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT** The PARTIES agree to provide their respective responding personnel with approved personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the assignment. In the case of FOREST SERVICE resources, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards apply in wildland fire situations. In the case of AUTHORITY resources NFPA or CAL OSHA, Title 8 specifications meet the requirement. At no time will personnel respond without the approved PPE.
29. **LAW ENFORCEMENT** Law enforcement efforts shall be coordinated to the maximum extent possible, at all levels by both PARTIES. The PARTIES shall render mutual assistance in law enforcement activities and the gathering of evidence, and in actual court prosecutions to the fullest extent practicable.
30. **EQUIPMENT** Equipment owned and used by either PARTY to suppress fires on the other PARTIES DPA shall normally be operated, serviced, and repaired by the owning PARTY. Fuel, lubricants, and maintenance are the financial responsibility of the supporting PARTY. Special rates for Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment will be set forth in the rate schedules in the AOP, which eliminates any purchase or replacement costs for the apparatus.
31. **WAIVER OF CLAIMS** The PARTIES hereby waive and relinquish all claims between and against each other, arising in the performance of this Agreement, for compensation for loss or damage to each other's property, and personal injury, including death, of employees, agents and contractors, except that this waiver shall not apply to intentional torts or negligent violence against such persons or property.
32. **NONDISCRIMINATION** The PARTIES shall comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination and all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, Executive orders, regulations, and policies. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d, 2000e-16), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended (29 U.S.C. 794) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities.
33. **ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS** Whenever an accident occurs involving the equipment or personnel of a SUPPORTING PARTY, the PROTECTING PARTY shall take immediate steps to notify the SUPPORTING PARTY that an accident has occurred. As soon as practical, the PROTECTING PARTY shall conduct an investigation of the accident. Costs for investigation personnel will be borne by the sending PARTY. Other accident or incident investigation costs are the financial responsibility of the PARTY that has incident jurisdiction. The sharing of information between PARTIES on accident investigations and their findings and probable causes is a valuable tool for safety and is encouraged.

34. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)** Any information furnished to the Forest Service under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).
35. **DEBT COLLECTION IMPROVEMENT ACT** The AUTHORITY shall furnish its tax identification number (TIN) upon execution of this Agreement. The AUTHORITY may wish to enroll in the Automatic Deposit program. Information concerning this program can be found at: www.nfc.usda.gov/dcia/efweb.htm.
36. **TERMINATION** Both PARTIES retain the right to terminate their participation under this Agreement by providing 30 days written notice to the other PARTY.
37. **LEGAL AUTHORITY** The AUTHORITY certifies that the person executing this Agreement on ~~their~~ behalf of the Authority has the legal authority to do so.
38. **COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE** This Agreement is executed as of the date the last signature and is effective for five years from that date, at which time it will expire unless renewed, or terminated pursuant to Section 36.
39. **ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION** In the event of any issue of controversy under this Agreement, the PARTIES may pursue Alternate Dispute Resolution procedures to voluntarily resolve those issues. These procedures may include, but are not limited to, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, and fact finding.
40. **AUTHORIZATION OF FIRE CHIEF**
On behalf of the AUTHORITY, the Fire Chief or his designee, is authorized to sign all documents necessary or appropriate to administer and implement this Agreement and to administer the AUTHORITY'S obligations, responsibilities and duties to be performed under this Agreement, including making non-substantive revisions and amendments to this Agreement and AOP. Non-substantive revisions and amendments include operational or other details that do not result in an increased cost to the AUTHORITY of more than ten percent (10%)

41. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS** The principal contacts for this instrument are:**FOREST SERVICE CONTACT**

Rich Hawkins
 Forest Fire Management Officer
 (858) 674-2980
 Fax: (858) 674-2999
 rdhawkins@fs.fed.us

AUTHORITY CONTACT

Orange County Fire Authority
 1 Fire Authority Road
 Irvine, CA 92602
 Attn: Batt. Chief Dave Phillips

FOREST SERVICE GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS SPECIALIST

Bonnie Harris
 Grants and Agreements Coordinator
 (626) 574-5283

FIRE AUTHORITY ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT

Orange County Fire Authority
 1 Fire Authority Road
 Irvine, CA 92602
 Attn: Battalion Chief Dave Phillips

REVIEW:*Bonnie Harris*
/s/ Bonnie Harris

BONNIE HARRIS
 Forest Service Grants and
 Agreements Specialist

1/23/07

Date

R. S. S. S.

Authority Reviewer (Optional)

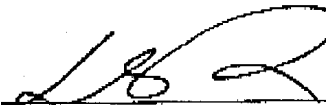
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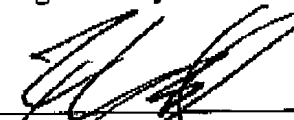
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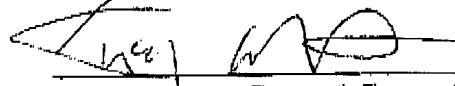
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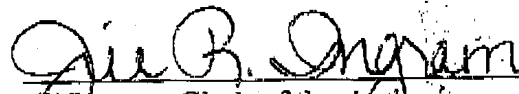
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below:


 FOREST SUPERVISOR
 Tina Terrell


 Chip Prather, Fire Chief
 Orange County Fire Authority


 R. Craig Scott, Chair
 Orange County Fire Authority


 Terry Andrus, General Counsel
 Orange County Fire Authority


 Jill Ingram, Clerk of the Authority
 Orange County Fire Authority

Date 2/27/07

Exhibit A, Definitions
 Exhibit B, Annual Operating Plan
 Exhibit C, Form FSLA-5 Record of Activity